



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
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CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

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FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Jesse Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SRF-5J  
LIBRARY \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject: Support for the Objectives of the Performance Management Plan for the Closure of the Fernald Site**

Dear Ms. Roberson:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the July 2002 draft of the Fernald Performance Management Plan (PMP). The PMP documents the United States Department of Energy (DOE) approach to achieving closure of the Fernald site by 2006.

We agree with the broad objectives and goals of the PMP. We look forward to further discussion with DOE and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) concerning the detailed implementation of initiatives outlined in the PMP. As we have cooperated well together in the past, we will continue to work with DOE and OEPA to aggressively evaluate and implement, where appropriate, those initiatives that will accelerate risk reduction and site closure.

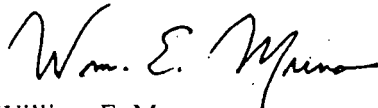
This letter of support is based, among other things, on the following assumptions:

- Sufficient funding will be provided by DOE to accelerate risk reduction and accelerate the environmental cleanup of Fernald to ensure a December 2006 closure.
- DOE will continue to fund a long-term stewardship program as a necessary component of successful site closure. The long-term stewardship program needs to be developed and in place well before closure is achieved to ensure a smooth transition. Inclusion of the development of the Fernald long-term stewardship program within the PMP seems most appropriate.
- DOE, the regulatory agencies and stakeholders understand that while most cleanup activities fall within the scope of "closure," there are some activities that fall outside this scope. These activities, their scope, cost and planning must be understood and addressed. Again, it would seem appropriate to address post-closure activities in the PMP.
- Nothing in this letter of support modifies any of the rights, authorities, or obligations currently stated in, or incorporated by reference into, the Amended Consent Agreement, Amended Consent Decree, or any previously existing design documents. While recognizing that mechanisms exist to modify these documents, at this time DOE, EPA, and OEPA do not anticipate modifying the Amended Consent Agreement or Amended Consent Decree in order to accelerate the Fernald Facility cleanup.

I want to reiterate our support of the accelerated cleanup at the Fernald site as outlined in the recent Letter of Intent jointly signed by DOE, OEPA and EPA. EPA supports DOE's development of the Fernald PMP and hopes that it will assist DOE in ensuring the December 2006 closure of Fernald. As we

have for years, EPA is committed to work proactively with DOE and OEPA to accelerate risk reduction and site closure at Fernald in a safe, protective and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,



William E. Muno  
Director  
Superfund Division

cc: Graham Mitchell, OEPA-SWDO  
Johnny Reising, U.S. DOE Fernald  
Sally Robinson, U.S. DOE-HDQ

bcc: Jamie Jameson, Fluor Fernald  
Terry Hagen, Fluor Fernald  
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Brian Barwick, EPA Region 5  
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